

Message Text

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17-12

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-15 PA-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 A-01 SS-20

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:PCBROWN/PJLYNN

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:JFMATLOCK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJECT: TRAVEL CONDITIONS FOR US CORRESPONDENTS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 14152; (B) STATE A-9322

1. BEFORE COMMENTING ON EMBASSY BACKING FOR PROPOSED CORRESPONDENTS' LETTER TO MFA DESCRIBED IN REF (A), DEPARTMENT NEEDS CLEARER DESCRIPTION OF PRESENT TRAVEL REQUEST PROCEDURES IN MOSCOW AND HOW THEY DIFFER FROM PROCEDURE IN US. PLEASE CABLE TEXT OF PROPOSED LETTER IF AVAILABLE.

2. FYI - IN CASE OF SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS WHO DESIRE TO TRAVEL IN US, SOVIET EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC NOTE MUST BE RECEIVED IN EUR/SOV AT LEAST TWO WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE OF PROPOSED TRAVEL. REQUEST MUST INDICATE PERSONS TRAVELLING, CITIES TO BE VISITED, MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, ROUTE FOLLOWED IN REACHING THESE CITIES AND EXACT DATES.

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ADDITION OF TRAVELLERS OR CITIES AND CHANGES IN DATE MUST

BE CONFIRMED IN WRITING AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED, WHEN NECESSARY, BY REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION TO TIME REQUIREMENT. CHANGES IN MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION AND ROUTE NEED NOT BE CONFIRMED IN WRITING. SUCH CHANGES ARE ACCEPTED TELEPHONICALLY. EUR/SOV DOES NOT REPLY TO ROUTINE TRAVEL NOTED I.E. NOTES WHICH DID NOT REQUEST EXCEPTIONS ARE CONSIDERED

APPROVED UNLESS SOVIET EMBASSY IS NOTIFIED TO THE CONTRARY. AS INDICATED IN REPORTS SENT TO EMBASSY BY EUR/SOV, TRAVEL BY SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS IS LIMITED AND SELDOM INVOLVES EITHER 48-HOUR OR CLOSED AREA EXCEPTIONS.

LOW NUMBER OF EXCEPTION REQUESTS

PRESUMED DUE TO SOVIET EMBASSY CONTROL OVER REQUEST PROCEDURE. END FYI

3. REQUEST EMBASSY ADVISE SPECIFICALLY HOW PROCEDURE IS DIFFERENT FOR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS IN MOSCOW, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS WHERE SIMILAR CONDITIONS COULD REALISTICALLY BE IMPOSED ON SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS HERE. FOR EXAMPLE- IS MORE THAN 48 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED? IS ANSWER RECEIVED IN TIMELY MANNER? WHAT INFORMATION MUST BE PROVIDED IN TRAVEL REQUEST? ARE ORAL AMENDMENTS ACCEPTABLE MUST APPROVAL BE RECEIVED IN WRITING? ARE ALL TURN-DOWNS REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT? STATISTICS ON VOLUME OF US CORRESPONDENT TRAVEL ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT SINCE REF (B) IS INTENDED AS PRELIMINARY STEP TO ENFORCEMENT OF RECIPROCITY IN AREA OF CORRESPONDENT TRAVEL.

4. RE DEPARTURE FROM US BY SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS. SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS DEPARTING US BUT PLANNING TO RETURN DO ROUTINELY NOTIFY DEPARTMENT AT LEAST FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF DEPARTURE SO AS TO OBTAIN RENEWAL OF WAIVERS AND VALID RE-ENTRY VISA. KISSINGER

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